

Our Daily Bread

Sliced Thin by The Editor

Alex. H. Washburn

They Spend

Money on Land

in the West

Your correspondent returned home last night from a two-weeks trip to California—no time for anything but the road, and yet anyone who has crossed the desert twice in nine years can't help but notice a change.

The irrigated districts at El Paso and Phoenix, and in California's Imperial Valley, have thrust much farther into the arid wastelands. Millions were spent by the federal government to make the desert productive farmland—and it is still being spent.

When I think of the 30,000 or 40,000 acres of our Southern Proving Ground which spokesmen for the government claim are so saturated with explosives that they can't be returned to cultivation.

But I imagine when you get down to hard facts it is merely a matter of spending money—and the War Department doesn't want the cost of reclaiming a war-shattered farmland charged up to its current operating budget. Military men probably view it as paying for a dead horse.

The answer for this is, that congress should draw up a plan for rehabilitating not only the SPG's ruined acres but all the other farm tracts similarly situated over America—and there are several.

A nation that goes into absolute desert and spends millions of dollars to produce luxury vegetable and fruit crops certainly can afford to spend much less money and restore once-good farmland for the business of growing staples.

Which is the Real Stalin?

It is always interesting to learn what Prime Minister Stalin has to say to the American people. His answers to questions put to him by American writers have a way of being more confusing than enlightening.

His statements about Soviet Russia, published in Look magazine, is no exception.

Some of the answers were familiar, since they were substantially repetitions of others given in questions submitted in writing by Americans. There were other answers that didn't jibe with some of Mr. Stalin's statements about Soviet-American relations and world affairs made for home consumption.

And there were still others which contradicted Soviet policy as it has come to be known through the United Nations and foreign ministers' meetings.

Most Americans, journalists and non-journalists alike, who have the pleasure of meeting Mr. Stalin seem to have found him an affable, courteous person with a twinkling eye, a sense of humor, and a tendency toward excitement or bombast.

Yet he stands before the world as the head of a dictatorship which at its lower levels of government, displays too little of Mr. Stalin's confidence and too much of Mr. Stalin's ministers are notable for frequent bitter speeches and a consistently mulish disposition to cooperate in internal conferences.

The official publications of his government go in for bitter, extravagant tirades against American capitalism, politics, manners and general life.

What, then, are Americans to believe? There seem to be only three choices. Either Mr. Stalin's voice is the true voice of Russia, policy which elsewhere cloaks a feeling of insecurity behind a brusque exterior; or Mr. Stalin speaks softly and insincerely while aiming his lightning bolts in the field with big sticks; or Mr. Stalin's mild views no longer prevail in Soviet councils.

Some men who follow Mr. Stalin well insist that the last supposition is correct. They insist that it is he, the mysterious Politburo which runs the Soviet Union, and that Josef Stalin is more or less a figurehead whose chief function is to serve as a symbol for popular loyalty and adoration.

If one rejects this explanation, there is still the question of which side Mr. Stalin's dual political nature predominates. When he addresses American audiences it is Stalin the ruler of a great, powerful, ambitious nation or Stalin the communist world revolutionist who is speaking.

Until those questions are answered—if indeed they can be—the diffuse light which Mr. Stalin sheds in his interviews will continue to provide no illumination for a groping world.

Vet Committee to Control Sale of Houses

The joint American Legion-VFW committee appointed to determine the priority of veterans who wish to buy a Proving Ground house expects to complete its plans before Monday, February 3.

New application questionnaires will be available Monday afternoon at the office of Charles Reynerson, City Treasurer, at the City Hall in Hope. This new questionnaire must be filled out and filed with Mr. Reynerson not later than 5 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 3.

Every applicant must have served honorably in the Armed Services on active duty at some time since Sept. 16, 1940, live in Hempstead County and agree to live in the house he buys for at least one year.

All veterans who expect to borrow money to pay for a house are urged to make tentative arrangements immediately so as to assure themselves that they will be able to pay for a house, if awarded one. The City of Hope cannot assist the veterans in making any financial arrangements.

It was also announced that the City of Hope assured the buyers that electricity would be available but that all other utilities must be taken as they exist at present.

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HOPE, ARKANSAS, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1947

(AP)—Means Associated Press (NEA)—Means Newspaper Enterprise Ass'n.

PRICE 5¢ CO

Graduated Tax Cut on Incomes Is Outlined

Washington, Feb. 1.—(UP)—Congressional Republicans were aiming today at a graduated income tax cut of 10, 15 and 20 per cent, with no reduction at all for some brackets.

The new tax goal was outlined by Sen. Robert A. Taft, R., O., chairman of the powerful Senate Republican policy committee. It was fresh evidence that sponsors of a 20 percent across-the-board cut had conceded defeat.

In a radio broadcast Taft said "there will be no across-the-board 20 per cent income tax cut as a general policy." Instead, he said, Republicans will concentrate on a graduated cut of "10, 15, and 20 in some cases, no per cent."

Taft agreed with House leaders, however, that it still would be possible to cut personal income taxes by an overall 20 per cent even though there would not be a cut of that amount for each wage earner.

That would be accomplished by a cut of \$3,500,000,000 from President Truman's \$37,528,000,000 budget. That accomplished, he said, there should be a \$2,000,000,000 payment on the national debt.

Leading GOP House members meanwhile recommended firing 1,000,000 workers from the federal payroll.

Chairman John W. Bricker, N. Y., of the House Appropriations committee, said this cut in personnel would save the government \$3,500,000,000.

House Republicans said their goal now was a balanced budget, partial debt retirement, and tax reduction, in that order.

The Republicans said in November that a 20 per cent tax cut could be accomplished for all brackets. House Speaker Joseph W. Martin, Jr., R., Mass., revealed Thursday, however, that they had backed water. He said the objective still was to cut the government's income tax revenue by 20 per cent, but that this did not necessarily mean a cut of that amount for each wage earner.

That the CIO, the railroad brotherhoods and the AFL should work together to fight off unfavorable legislation in Congress and present a solid front otherwise, his plea was not too popular.

He said the AFL president told him that the AFL would not support a bill to cut taxes first and then see whether we can keep a functioning government and a solvent nation.

Scoff at GOP Claims

Washington, Feb. 1.—(AP)—Democrats began a determined backfire today against GOP proposals to trim billions out of President Truman's budget in preparation for a 20 percent income tax slash.

Rep. Cannon (D-Mo.), veteran member of the tax-fixing Ways and Means Committee, scoffed at assertions that 1,000,000 government workers could be saved at a saving of \$3,500,000,000 a year.

Rep. Forand (D-R.I.) said he will counter any attempt to vote a 20 per cent across-the-board tax slash with a substitute bill giving most relief to the low income brackets.

And Senator Lucas (D-Ill.), declared the Republican economy demands threaten the nation's military security and "the financial security of every American who has invested in government bonds."

The wholesale cut in the number of civilian federal employees, which now stands at 2,300,000, was approved by the Senate House budget committee yesterday by Chairman Knutson (R-Minn.) of the House Ways and Means Committee told reporters later it was the "general feeling" at the meeting that the payroll could be cut to 3,000,000 without impairing government functions. That total, he said, would still be 400,000 more federal workers than there were in 1939.

When the House dismissed the meeting of the budget group, a combination of committees which will fix a ceiling for federal spending, as a "political field day" for the G.I.

Rips Big Three

More than 343 buildings, located at three government installations are now being offered for sale by the Little Rock regional office of War Assets Administration. The buildings will be sold with whatever permanent fixtures they contain, such as plumbing and electrical facilities, but must be removed from their present sites by the purchaser.

Ninety-five of the structures are located at the POW Camp, Monticello, 188 at the Arkansas Ordnance Plant, Jacksonville, and 60 at Southwest Proving Grounds, Hope. Those at Monticello and 49 of the ones at Jacksonville will be available to priority holders for a 10-day period ending February 8, after which bids will be invited from HH (veterans' housing) certificates.

Sale of the buildings at Hope will be handled in the same manner, Mr. Sharp said. Priority claimants' period in the Hope sale will end on February 10, after which bids may be submitted by HH certificates and the general public through February 20.

Bids on the Monticello buildings will be opened at 11 a.m. February 20; those on the Jacksonville group, February 21; and the Hope property, February 22. Bids on another listing of 139 buildings at the Arkansas Ordnance Plant, already offered to priority and HH claimants and now being offered to the general public, will be opened February 10.

Senate Defeats Bill to Regulate Lobbyists

Little Rock, Feb. 1.—(AP)—A bill to regulate lobbyists and force them to file expense accounts with the state was defeated in the Arkansas Senate today.

The vote was 15 to 14 in favor of the bill but 18 votes were necessary for passage. Sen. Goodson, D-Queen, gave notice of reconsideration.

The Senate resumed its wrangling over the status of an enabling bill on the anti-closed shop amendment which was passed yesterday.

Efforts of the pro-labor bloc captained by Senators Byrd of El Dorado and Maner of Hot Springs at the Senate again to reconsider a previous vote by which the emergency clause failed.

Gov. Nathan Gordon, president of the Senate ruled, however, that the "House day" and that any Senate business was out of order until House bills had been handled.

During debate on the lobby regulation bill Sen. Screeton of Hazen said that he saw nothing wrong with lobbying and added he felt the need of a lobbyist's advice right now, especially on a pending insurance bill.

"Nothing in this bill would prevent lobbying but only compel them to register and file expense accounts," said Sen. Lookadoo of Arkadelphia.

Merger of Labor Groups Proposed

Miami, Fla., Feb. 1.—(AP)—Leaders of the AFL today used CIO President Philip Murray's bid for a united labor front as an opening to propose a merger of the rival labor groups.

Strategically, the AFL executive council, which met in Miami on a spot, they said the kind of unity of action with which Murray sought to combat anti-labor forces could come only through "organic" merger of the two big groups.

Murray on Dec. 5, suggested that the CIO, the railroad brotherhoods and the AFL should work together to fight off unfavorable legislation in Congress and present a solid front otherwise, his plea was not too popular.

He said the AFL president told him that the AFL would not support a bill to cut taxes first and then see whether we can keep a functioning government and a solvent nation.

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Quiet Birthday For Them



On Saturday, February 1, the Baggett quads will celebrate their eighth birthday in Galveston, Texas. Unlike other years this will be a quiet affair. There will be no photographers or newsmen for the first time since the little girls can remember. The nation's youngest all-girl quads are shown making out their invitation lists. Each girl will invite eight of her friends. Left to right: Jeraldine, Joan, Joyce and Jeanette Baggett. (NEA Telephoto)

Hope Chamber Membership Drive to Start

The Membership Committee of the Chamber of Commerce will hold an organizational meeting at the office of the Chamber of Commerce at 7:30 p.m. Monday, February 4.

At the present time approximately half of the 1947 budget has been pledged and the task of the Membership Committee is to see that funds are available for the full realization of the 1947 program of work.

The Chamber of Commerce has established a budget for this year of \$8,750.00. The recently organized Chamber of Commerce has established a budget for this year of \$8,750.00.

The budget is one of the important factors in Chamber of Commerce work. Progressive action by this organization takes money, and all citizens are urged to contribute.

Heading the drive as chairman is Mr. Martin Pool. Assisting him are members of the committee are: Howard Byers, Dewey Baber, Edwin Stewart, Basil York, Boyce Smith, Hollis Luck, Lamar Cox, Byron Helmer, Bill Wray, E. W. Campbell, Lyle Moore, Robert L. Grone, Rae Luck, Joe Black, Ben Owen, and Royce Weisenberger.

EARLY GOLF BALLS

Golf balls were made of leather stuffed with "as many feathers as a hat will hold," until 1848, when the gutta percha ball was introduced.

Boyle Discovers Secret of Washington—Described as an Overlooked Civilization

(Hal Boyle, discoverer of the lost village of Washington, D.C., concludes his one-man expedition today with a report of the political habits of its inhabitants, whom he feels may in some way be a link between the dark ages and the world of tomorrow.)

By HAL BOYLE

Washington — (AP)—Today — At long last I learned the secret of this overlooked civilization.

There are no peace pipes being smoked along the Potomac. I found the reason for this by venturing single-handed into the dark labyrinth of the great stone tepee where the two opposing main tribes — the "Republicans" and the "Democrats" — are engaged in a battle of attrition.

I took along a compass and a ball of string, tying one end to a toe of the statue nearest the door and unrolled my way slowly into the dim interior. Thrice I passed forlorn visitors from nearby villages who appealed to me despairingly.

"How in heaven's name do you get out of here?" they told me to grope back along my trailing piece of twine and they rushed away uttering the whimsical local cry of gratitude: "Thanks, Mac!"

Unobserved, I sat and watched the rival tribal chieftains of the strange race exchange war talk. Their words were too-tom-tom of trouble. Yet these tribes behave most peculiarly. Whenever one great chief rose to speak, the other chiefs of both tribes rose and raced for the corridor. All except those too tired or old to defend themselves by flight. These merely sat in strained fatigue, scratching themselves occasionally or reading the journals which record the battle-field activities.

"The chiefs of both tribes appear to a man to have overdeveloped laryngeal reflexes, and at the same time their ears are seemingly allergic to all oratory except their own. Perhaps this tenderness of the larynx accounts for all the warfare. They hear no counsel except their own voices."

Most puzzling is the fact that

Senator Bilbo Due to Leave Hospital Today

New Orleans, Feb. 1.—(UP)—Mississippi Sen.-elect Theodore G. Bilbo will be discharged from Toussaint Hospital today, an official of the hospital announced this morning.

The exact hour of Bilbo's discharge from the hospital, where he underwent an operation for cancer of the mouth Jan. 13, was not given.

Dr. Alton Ochsner, prominent New Orleans surgeon and nationally known cancer specialist who performed the operation, described Bilbo's condition as "very good."

This week, but said the fire-eating Mississippi advocate of white supremacy would need another operation before he could return to Washington to renew his fight for his contested Senate seat.

Ochsner said the operation would be necessary to "replace the bone which was broken."

It was believed Bilbo would return to his Poplarville, Miss., "dream house," to await the operation.

BOY HELD FOR RAPE

Yellville, Feb. 1.—(AP)—A 16-year-old Yellville boy has been charged with raping a married woman here.

The youth entered the woman's home yesterday morning. He was taken to Mountain Home for safekeeping but later returned to the Marion county jail at Yellville.

ROADS EXPLAINED

Mysterious roars emanating from old Rumbling Bald mountain, Lake Lure, N. C., have been explained by scientists as being caused by the wind blowing through the tops of caves deep in the mountain.

Boyle Discovers Secret of Washington—Described as an Overlooked Civilization

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State Hospital Investigation Continues

By JOHN HASLAM

Little Rock, Feb. 1.—(UP)—The joint House and Senate committee investigating conditions at the State Hospital faced a grueling six-hour schedule of hearings today after an employee last night described the Little Rock unit as a "firetrap of cockroach dens."

Another witness charged that at the time of his employment at the Little Rock unit, the doctors and attendants had to "play politics" and "vote right" to keep their jobs.

The first witness was Neil Clark who was in charge of wards and who considers himself as a qualified judge of nervous hospitals from his many years of employment in them.

He told the committee that in case of fire, it would be necessary for someone to unlock and open three doors before the patients could be led to safety. He described fire protection facilities as inadequate, and said the buildings would burn "like dry sagebrush" if fire broke out.

Clark said that even a "pot of gold" would not, of itself, improve conditions at the hospital until inefficient staff members are removed. He said some of them are incompetent because they have outgrown their usefulness or because they never were adapted to that kind of work.

He classified all employees into four categories: those who are incompetent because of the "infirmities of old age," those who lack ambition and are content to "perpetuate themselves and rock their cradles away," those who are inefficient, and those who are loyal and efficient.

State Rep. Louis I. Watts of Drew county, a former employee at both hospital units, declared that "all the money in the world" would not improve conditions unless there was a complete change in the hospital administration and system to prevent a turnover of employees every time a new governor is elected.

Regarding his reference to a change in the hospital administration, Watts said "any change would be for the better."

The committee held two-hour hearings this morning and this afternoon, and scheduled another for tonight.

Royal Family of England on Vacation

Portsmouth, England, Feb. 1.—(UP)—King George, Queen Elizabeth and the two princesses waved goodbye to England from the snow-covered dock of the H. M. S. Vanguard today and sailed away to South Africa.

The battleship sailed on the morning tide for a 17-day voyage across the equator to Capetown. There the royal family will start a 65-day tour covering almost every part of southern Africa.

Well-banded in mufflers against the early morning cold, the king exchanged farewell laytons with Admiral Sir Geoffrey Layton, commander of the Portsmouth naval base. Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret wore scarves on their heads. Both were excited about their first trip away from the United Kingdom.

An aircraft carrier, two cruiser and a destroyer will escort the Vanguard on the first part of its voyage.

HOGS CAUSED EXTINCTION

His unpalatable flesh saved the dodo from extinction on the island of Mauritius, in the Indian ocean, east of Madagascar, until hogs were introduced on the island. The hogs ate the young of the eggs of the dodo, and it soon disappeared.

Contracts Let for Bridge, Road Construction

Little Rock, Feb. 1.—(AP)—Contracts in the amount of approximately \$1,700,000 were awarded by the State Highway Commission yesterday for bridge and road construction.

The contracts are dependent upon passage of a controversial Housebill which would appropriate \$1,537,500 for the highway department for the last six months of this fiscal year, commission members said.

Truman Halted Order to Boost Rents

Washington, Feb. 1.—(AP)—Senator McCarthy (R-Wis.), declared today that he would oppose a decision to order a 10 per cent rent ceiling boost without consulting President Truman, provoking landlords should receive an increase.

Fleming, administrator of the Office of Temporary Controls, told the Senate Banking Committee he ordered the hike into effect, not knowing the president has repeatedly opposed such a move.

James W. Follin, Fleming's deputy, was going ahead with the order when it was killed abruptly at the White House. The mixup occurred late Wednesday, while Fleming was in Iowa to attend his mother's funeral.

The Wisconsin first term question Fleming intensively following his statement yesterday.

"He admitted that his ideas hadn't changed since three days ago when he thought there should be a 10 per cent increase," McCarthy said later in an interview.

He also admitted that if rent controls were taken off all new rental units it would ease the situation a great deal.

Fleming said he had talked to the president about rents in a general way and left thinking he would be justified in ordering an increase.

"I did not know his policy before I do now," he said.

Fleming told the committee landlords in general are better off than they were before rent control, but that an increasing number are finding themselves in an unfavorable financial position.

He explained that with the limited staff available, it might be beyond the administrative ability of his office to grant values of the kind of hardship cases "expeditiously."

"Therefore," he said, "under the circumstances, to correct existing hardships with a minimum of administrative burden, it seemed advisable to grant the overall increase."

He said the president decided that such a general increase would be unwarranted because it would benefit landlords whether they were suffering hardships or not. Furthermore, he said Mr. Truman felt the whole matter should be left to the discretion of Congress.

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Probers Insist on More Sugar for Housewives

Washington, Feb. 1.—(AP)—House committee investigating food shortages "insisted" today on more sugar for every American this year. It said industrial users should have "third more" than they got in 1946.

The committee rushed its report and recommendations to Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson in advance of a Monday meeting of an interagency sugar committee, which will try to divide the world supply.

The committee said it "insisted" that the secretary of agriculture retain approximately 3,900,000 short tons of sugar stocks in the U. S., has bought "under agreement with the Cuban government."

Chairman August H. Anderson

